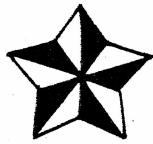


BLAK

STAR



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Paper of the
ANARCHIST STUDENT'S UNION.

PUBLIC ORDER ACT

How many Australians noticed the introduction of the "Public Order Act" in Britain. It would appear that we heared very little about it from the commercial media, and indeed why should we. Australia would appear to be next in line for a helping of "public order."

The "Public Order Act" became law in Britain on the 1st of january this year. This new legislation is a Joh Bjelke-Petersen type ban on all marches, rallies and pickets that do not have police approval. Under the Act:

~ Spontaneous demonstrations will be illegal (7 days notice must be given).

~ Organising and taking part in demos without police permission will be criminal offences.

~ The size, route, time, duration and slogans of a demo will be subject to police "approval".

~ Organisers will have to give verifiable names and addresses (allowing the police to refine and extend their dossiers).

~ The price for breaking these laws is high! 1,000 pounds (A \$2,200) fines plus policing costs, or 3 months in prison, for an organiser, and 400 pounds for a participant in an "illegal" demonstration.

This is just the precedent that the "New Right" and Joh need to justify the imposition of similar "reforms" should they succeed in winning the next election. Such laws already exist in the "Sunshine state" and there is no question that Joh will attempt to institute similar legislation in other states.

The bill in Britain effectively criminalises the expression of opposition. It is the culmination of a 10 year process of increasing police power against so called "enemies of the state". For activists in Australia it should be seen as a warning of what could all too easily happen over here.

Adapted from the "REBEL WORKER"



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